

REMARKS

Several editorial corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 1 - 4, 6, and 9 - 32 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claims 33 - 42 have been added. No new matter has been introduced with these corrections, amendments, or added claims, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 6 and 8 - 42 are now in the application.

I. Proposed Drawing Corrections

As discussed above in "Amendments to the Drawings", proposed drawing corrections are submitted herewith for Figs. 4 and 5, thereby aligning the drawings with the specification. No new matter is introduced.

II. Rejection Under 35 U. S. C. §112

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated March 30, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U. S. C. §112, second paragraph, as having insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the adapters". Claim 3 has been amended to refer to active client lists maintained on the access points, and new Claim 33 now refers to those lists maintained on adapters coupled to access points; the claim language as presented in Claim 33 refers to "an adapter", and therefore has proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U. S. C. §102(e)

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Paragraph 1, second instance, of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 2, 4 - 18, 25 - 27, and 29 - 32 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,452,498 to Stewart. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1 and 14 herein to more clearly specify limitations of the location-aware service proxies. In particular, these claims specify that the location-aware service proxies "intercept client requests". The Office Action cites Fig. 1, element 20 (an Information Provider) for teaching location-aware service proxies. However, Applicants find no discussion in Stewart that this Information Provider is a service proxy or that it intercepts client requests. Accordingly, Applicants submit that their independent claims are patentable over Stewart, and that dependent Claims 2, 4 - 6, 8 - 13, 15 - 18, 25 - 27, and 29 - 32 are therefore patentable over Stewart as well. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U. S. C. §103(a)

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action states that Claims 22 - 24 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart. Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that Claims 19 - 20 and 28 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart in view of U. S. Patent 6,439,539 to Falco et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection in Paragraph 2 of the Office Action, Applicants' dependent Claim 22 specifies "maintaining an active client list associated with each access point". Stewart fails to

teach this limitation. Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the MAC addresses in the active client list associated with an access point include those of the mobile clients that are “currently visible via the associated access point”. (See p. 6, lines 15 - 16 and 31 of Applicants’ specification.) In col. 6, lines 40 - 41, Stewart teaches that “static information which does not change, or changes relatively infrequently, can be stored in the AP [access point] 10” (emphasis added). An example of this static information is the location of the access point itself (col. 6, line 44). Clearly, a list of currently-visible mobile clients (as in Applicants’ claimed “active client list”) does not meet Stewart’s criteria for “static information” (or even information that “changes relatively infrequently”) that is maintained by Stewart’s access points. Applicants find no other discussions in Stewart of maintaining client-specific information associated with an access point, and therefore respectfully submit that Claim 22 is patentable over Stewart. Claims 23 and 24 are therefore also patentable over Stewart.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action admits that Stewart fails to teach the limitations of Claim 19, and then cites col. 8, lines 51 - 57 of Falco as teaching these limitations. Applicants’ Claim 19 has been amended herein to clarify that the claim is directed toward a lapse in traffic at “a particular one of the access points”. See p. 6, lines 11 - 24 (and more particularly, lines 20 - 22) of Applicants’ specification, where this is discussed. Applicants’ Claim 19 has been further amended to clarify that the mobile clients for which this monitoring of elapsed time is performed are each of those “which is currently considered active by the particular [access point]”. By contrast, the cited text from Falco pertains to a “time difference” that is detected by each of a plurality of access points 20, 30 and then transmitted to a “serving base station 10 that uses TDOA [Time Difference Of

Arrival] to determine the position of the mobile 40 based on the time differences". This is distinct from Applicants' Claim 19, and Applicants therefore respectfully submit that their dependent Claim 19 is patentable over the teachings of Stewart and Falco, whether taken singly or in combination, and that dependent Claim 20 is therefore patentable over these references as well.

With reference to dependent Claim 28, the Office Action states (p. 10) that this claim is taught by Stewart and Falco, making reference to col. 7, lines 31 - 42 of Stewart. Applicants respectfully disagree with this interpretation of the references. Applicants' Claim 28 specifies "removing an access point identifier ... from a location list" upon receiving a "transmitted reverse register notification". Stewart does not teach these limitations. The cited text states "service and information provider 20 can employ processors to provide only suitable information to the user and can track the user's last reported location". However, this does not teach receiving a "reverse register notification", or removing access point identifiers "from a location list" in response to receiving this type of notification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their dependent Claim 28 is patentable over the references.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejections.

V. Allowable Claim

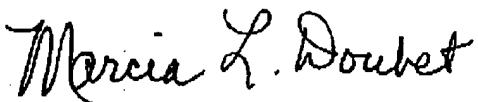
Paragraph 4 of the Office Action states that Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the

limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 14, from which Claim 21 depends, is patentable, as discussed above. Claim 21 is therefore deemed patentable as currently presented.

VI. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Replacement Sheets (2)

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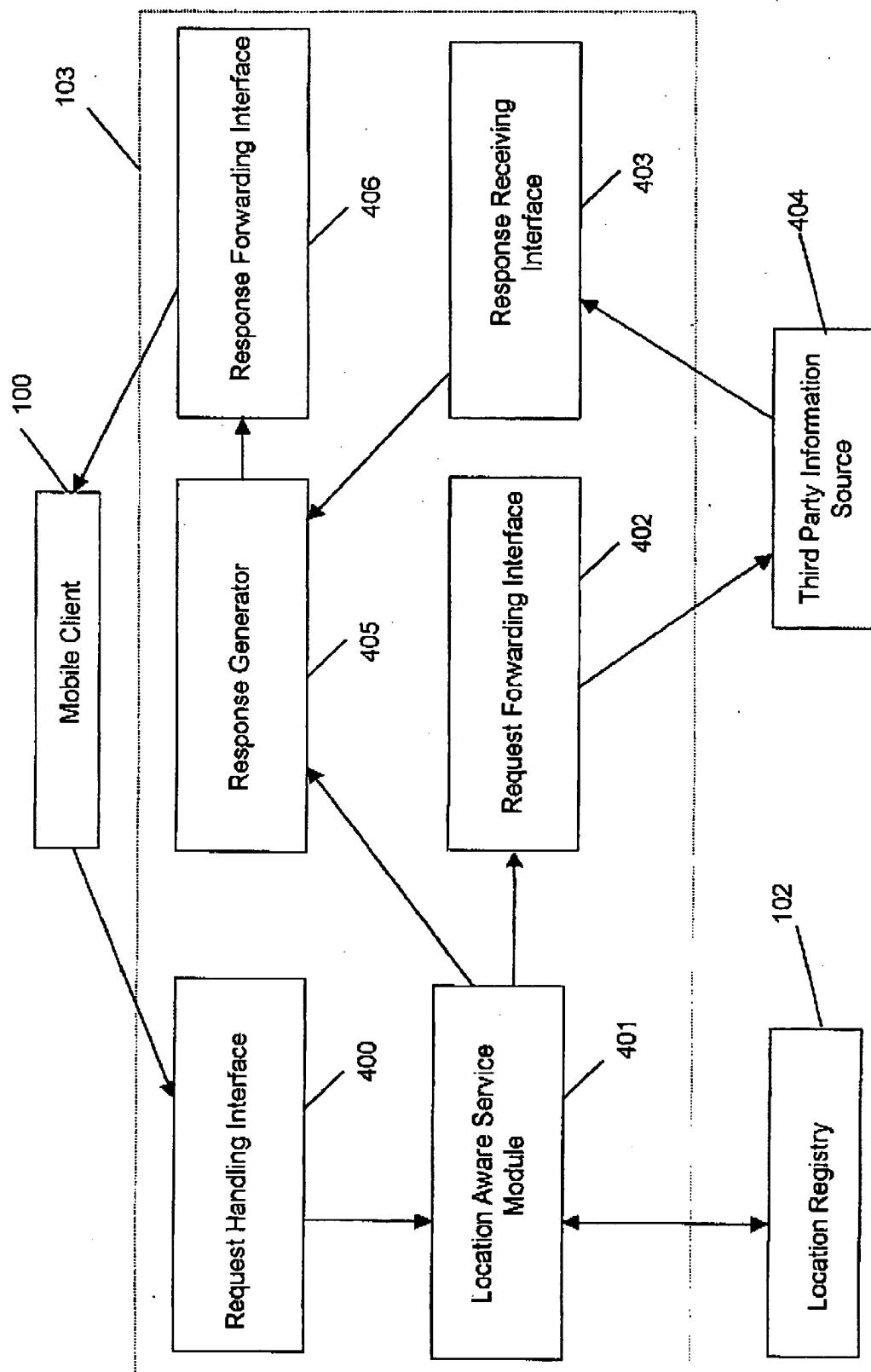
Application Serial Nbr. 09/848,441
Replacement Sheet

FIG. 4

Application Serial Nbr. 09/848,441
Replacement Sheet

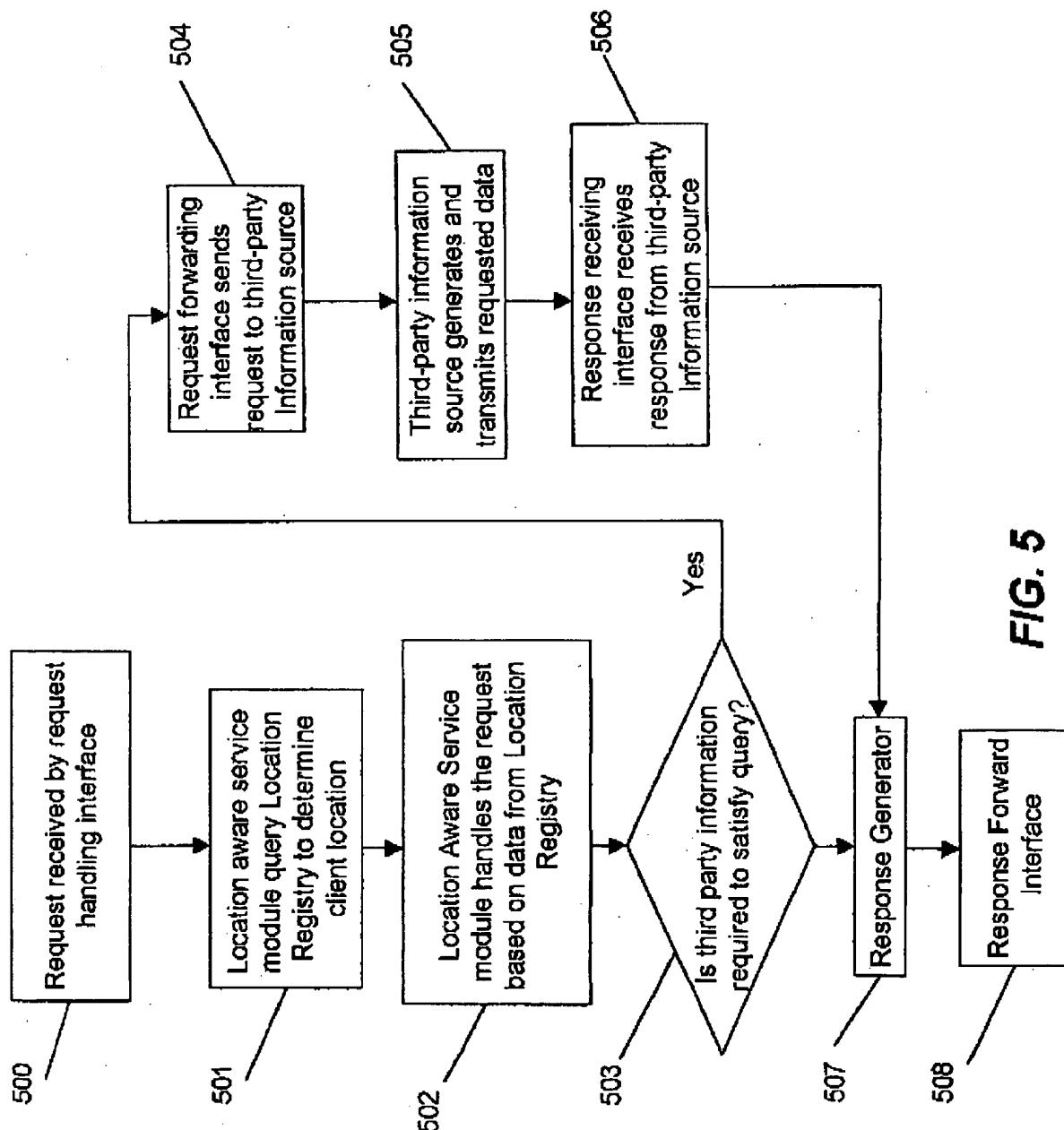


FIG. 5